

The leading industries of Topeka, Kansas

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

This booklet contains a listing of the leading industries in Topeka, Kansas, reviewing the manufacturing, commercial real estate, and other interests of the city. An index of the companies and individuals referenced appears at the end.

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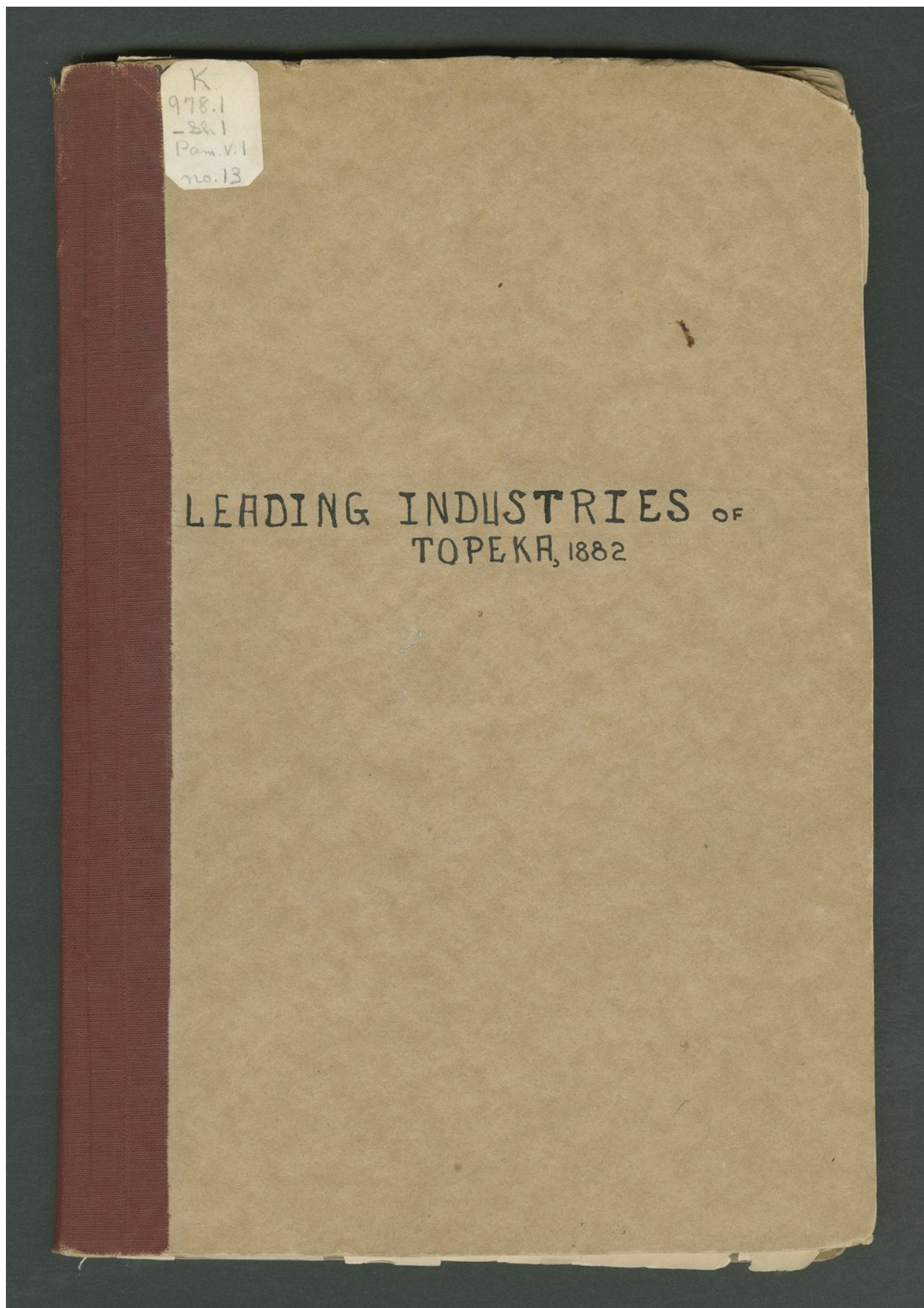
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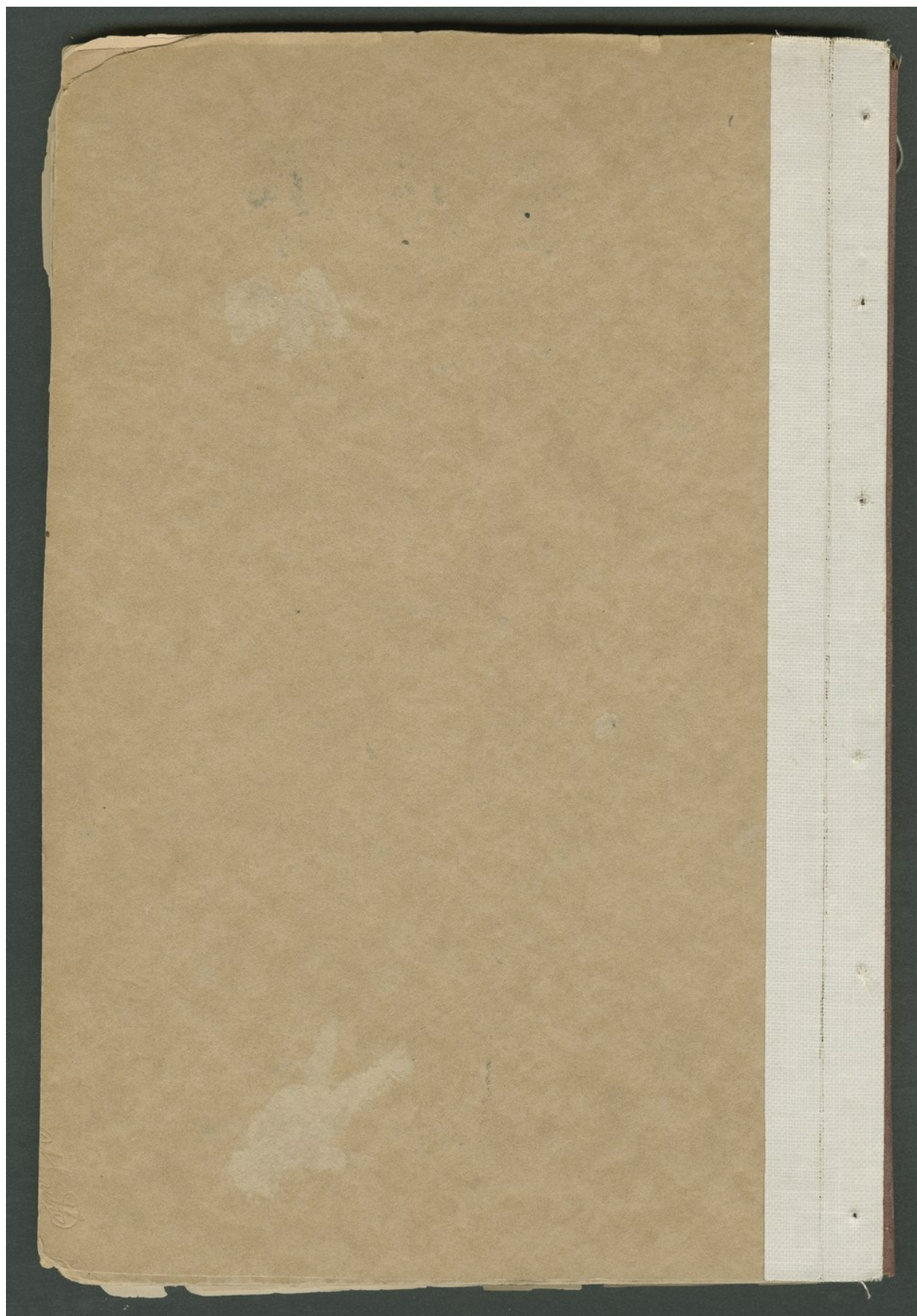
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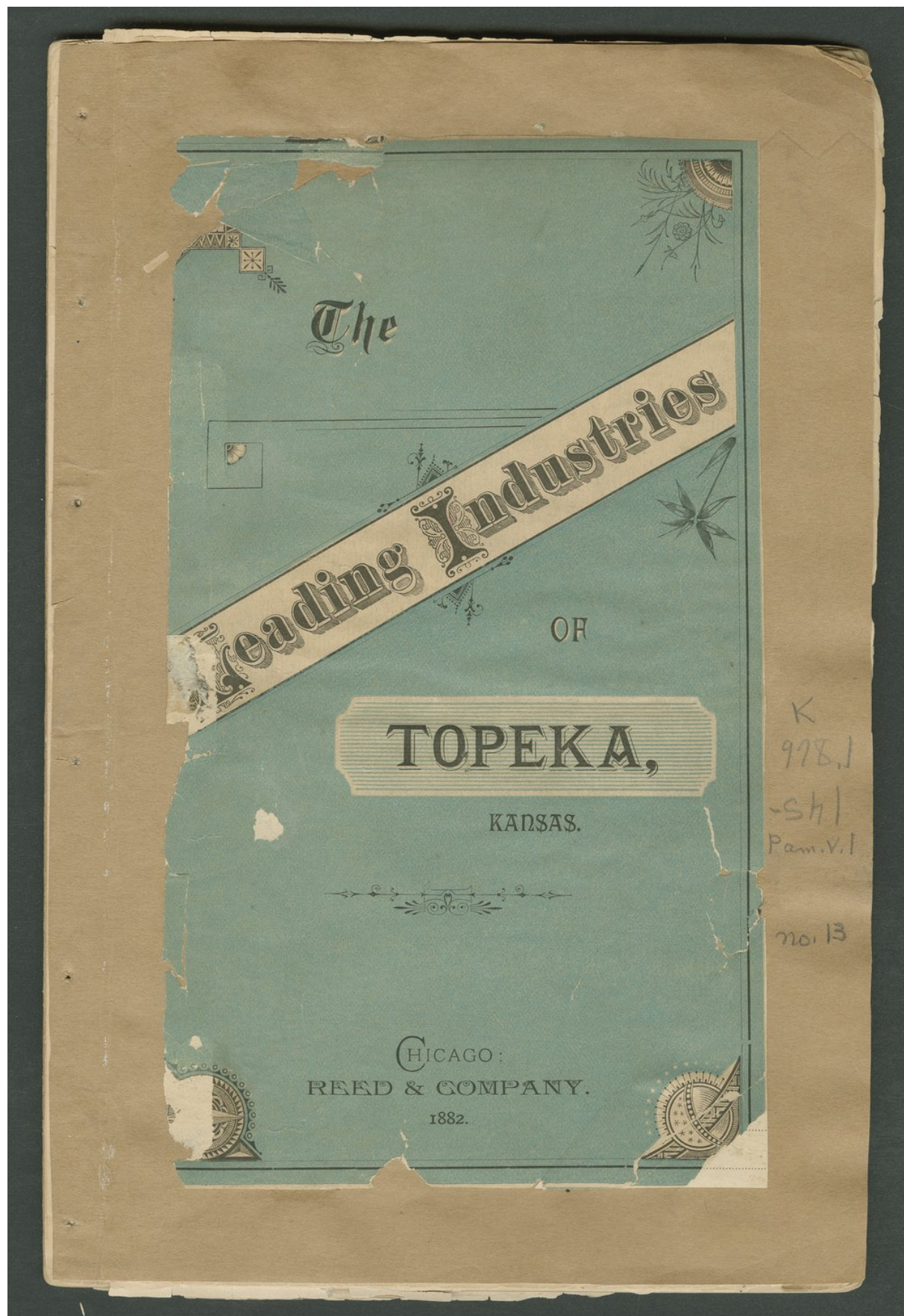
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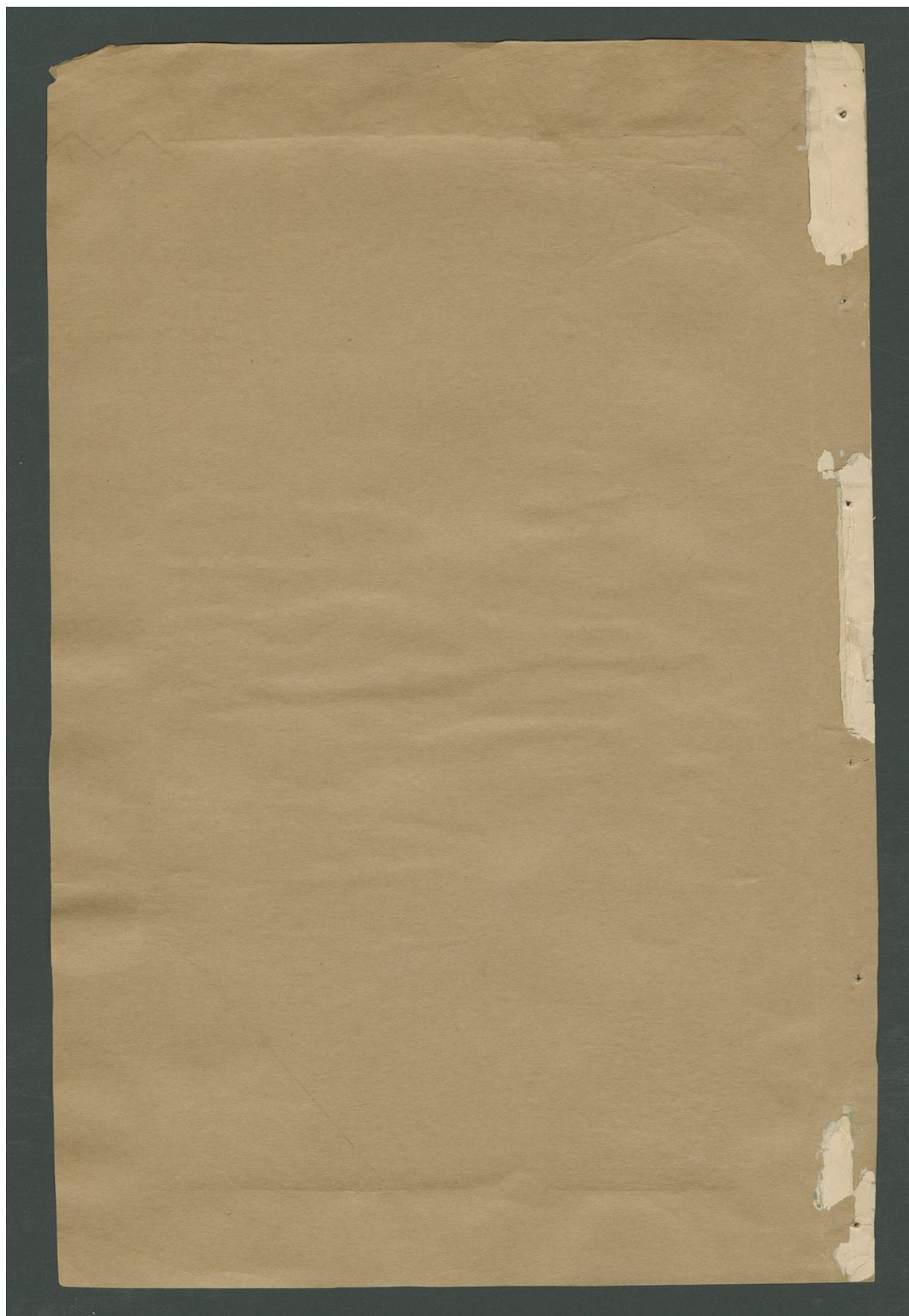


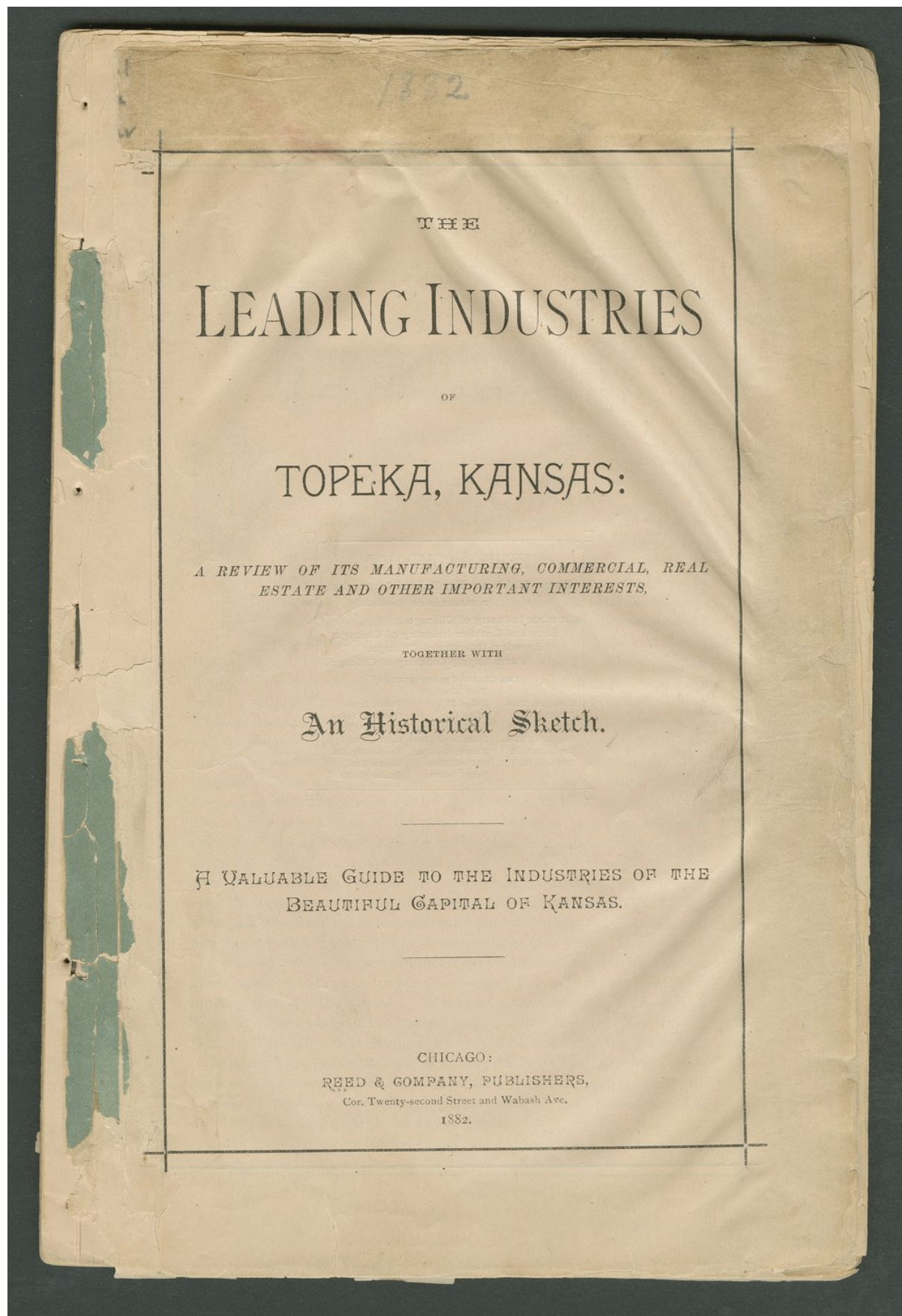
KANSAS
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THE
LEADING INDUSTRIES
OF
TOPEKA, KANSAS:

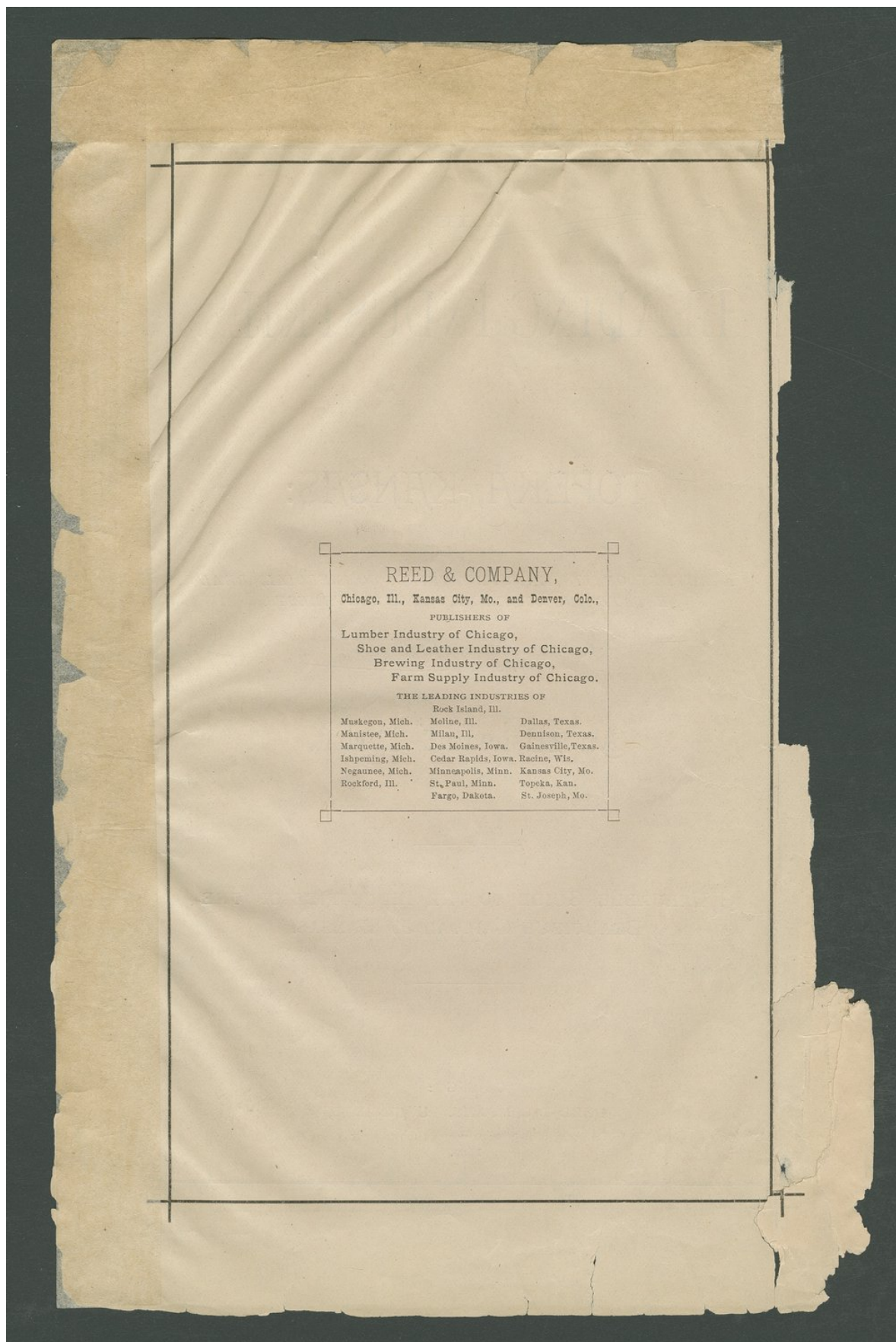
A REVIEW OF ITS MANUFACTURING, COMMERCIAL, REAL
ESTATE AND OTHER IMPORTANT INTERESTS,

TOGETHER WITH

An Historical Sketch.

A VALUABLE GUIDE TO THE INDUSTRIES OF THE
BEAUTIFUL CAPITAL OF KANSAS.

CHICAGO:
REED & COMPANY, PUBLISHERS,
Cor. Twenty-second Street and Wabash Ave.
1882.



REED & COMPANY,

Chicago, Ill., Kansas City, Mo., and Denver, Colo.,

PUBLISHERS OF

Lumber Industry of Chicago,

Shoe and Leather Industry of Chicago,

Brewing Industry of Chicago,

Farm Supply Industry of Chicago.

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Rock Island, Ill.

Muskegon, Mich.

Moline, Ill.

Dallas, Texas.

Manistee, Mich.

Milau, Ill.

Dennison, Texas.

Marquette, Mich.

Des Moines, Iowa.

Gainesville, Texas.

Ishpeming, Mich.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Racine, Wis.

Negaunee, Mich.

Minneapolis, Minn.

Kansas City, Mo.

Rockford, Ill.

St. Paul, Minn.

Topeka, Kan.

Fargo, Dakota.

St. Joseph, Mo.

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HISTORICAL



If the history of cities was subtracted from the history of humanity, all that remained would have no special attraction and be accounted as of little value; the influence of cities upon the territories surrounding them will everywhere be found beneficial to the race and promotive of the highest good. Without them, what must America have been? Instead of a lamp to the nations, instead of a refuge for the aspiring, though grievously oppressed people of other climes, there must have been everywhere presented the same conditions of life that characterized the wandering hordes of Mongolians and Tartars in the vast flats of Central Asia. Without cities, America, instead of being the cradle of human liberty, rolling back and turning aside the oppressions of the ages, must have been an asylum for the perpetuation of ignorant or malicious injustice—a trackless waste inhabited by those in whom the grossest passions were unslain and unsubdued. Instead of railroads, marauders; for industry, bloodshed; for science, superstition; no music, no painting, no poetry—without these, no progress. Those nations have been the greatest wherein centers of intelligence and wealth have arisen, and following the light they have shed on the great highways of the world, the progress of humanity may be traced along the vista of the ages. In cities the noblest discoveries of science have been made, and there the grandest battles for political and religious liberty have been waged. All the great military movements of renowned warriors have been directed against the cities of an enemy, and rather than see their strongholds pass into other hands the besieged have razed them to the ground, well knowing that all the power and influence would go with them. In proportion as a chain of cities across the continent has been completed, the development of the resources of the country has been assured and a guarantee created for the perpetuation of the Republic. If the reader will take a map of the United States and draw across it two straight lines, one starting from New Haven, Conn., and the other from Norfolk, Va., it will be found that the great chain of American cities lies on the belt of territory embraced by these lines. Fifteen hundred and forty-nine miles southwest of New York City, with six States intervening between the two points, and constituting a link in the chain from the Atlantic to the Pacific, is the city of Topeka.

Like Washington, the capital city of the nation, Topeka, the capital city

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of Kansas, is a place of "magnificent distances;" this is true not only of its geographical relations to the country at large—which is almost central—but also of the public thoroughfares, most of them being 130 feet wide and few so narrow as not to be wider than the average streets or avenues of Eastern cities. Kansas avenue, the principal thoroughfare, is at least three miles long and 130 feet wide for its entire length, except where an iron bridge across the Kaw River connects the two divisions of the city. Of course, to many visitors such ample accommodations for public traffic are at once a surprise and delight, and most Topekans are proud of the impressions carried away by visitors; yet there are those who deprecate what is termed "undue liberality" on the part of those who laid out the city. Whether this arises from mercenary motives is not certain; but the writer dare assert, in the face of the fact that foreign visitors to our shores seldom fail to speak of the broad expanse of American streets, that in this particular Topeka is the most thoroughly Americanized of American cities; further, we have no doubt future generations will entertain a high opinion of the good judgment of the early settlers. If the bells of prophecy had been ringing into their ears the strain "Here shall be built the capital city of a great State," the pioneers could not have done better.

According to a competent authority on Indian dialect, Prof. John B. Dunbar, the name "Topeka" is derived from three Indian words, viz., "To" potato (the wild kind), "pe," good, and "okæ," to dig. It has been ascertained that these words have the same meaning among the following tribes of Indians: Otoes, Omahas, Iowas and Kaws. Liberally translated, the name would mean "A good place to dig potatoes." The wild potato was, in early times, very plentiful along the banks of the Kaw River, and the Indians who lived to the north of this point, came down in seasons when food was scarce to this river to dig potatoes, and as they gathered their supplies exclaimed, "Topeka!" or, "This is a good place to dig potatoes." This seems to be a satisfactory explanation of the derivation of the name; its credibility is increased by a further explanation given by White Plume, chief of the Kaw tribe of Indians, to Col. C. K. Holliday, one of the first settlers and a gentleman who still resides here. Long before the name Kansas was given to the river by the Government, the Indians used to call it Topeka, on account of the immense quantities of wild potatoes which grew along its banks, or, in the poetic language of the "Kaws," "the river upon whose banks grew the wild potato plant."

The first white man to break the soil within what is known as Topeka Township, was Clement Shattio, a Frenchman, who came here from Uniontown, Kan., November 15, 1852. The farm was owned by Alexander Bushman, a half-breed Shawnee Indian, and is situated one mile northwest of the city on the south bank of the river. In November, 1854, Charles Robinson, agent of the New England Emigrant Aid Society, and C. K. Holliday, both Eastern men and residents of Lawrence, Kan., started from that town to select sites for Eastern colonies; Topeka was one of three sites chosen by them at that time. After they returned home, Rev. M. Hummer and another laid

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out a town and called it Fremont, on or near the above site, as selected by Messrs. Robinson and Holliday. On the 29th of November, 1854, four gentlemen—Enoch Chase, M. C. Dickey, J. B. Chase and George Davis—under the advice of Mr. Robinson, settled on the Topeka town site with the understanding that if they did so, he (Robinson), as agent of the New England Emigrant Aid Society, would send emigration to them. The party, while at work the next day, were ordered off by the members of the Fremont Town Company, but they refused to go. With the two rival parties on the ground, matters remained unchanged until the 4th of December, 1854, when a party of nine men just arrived in Lawrence from the East, and hearing of this new town enterprise, sent a committee to examine the locality and report. The party consisted of the following gentlemen: D. Horne, ——— Fry, W. Giles, L. G. Cleveland, S. A. Clark, F. A. Crowe, W. C. Linniker, T. G. Thornton, J. E. Greenwood and T. McIntire. The first four constituted the committee, and C. K. Holliday accompanied the party. They were well pleased with the prospects of the new town, and reported to the committee at Lawrence, who soon after arrived. A town company was formed, and emigrants continued to arrive during the winter.

The prospects of the rival town company never were very encouraging. The members soon got into a quarrel among themselves, which resulted, early in 1855, in the buildings in Fremont being torn down and the people rendered homeless and houseless. Assistance was received by the New Englanders from other parts of the county, and all trace of the rival town was quickly obliterated. Meanwhile, Topeka continued to thrive; more emigrants came; the town was sectionized; buildings were erected, and men began to put their houses and themselves in order for business. We cannot well afford space for a list of all the settlers of 1855—they may be found in a valuable pamphlet by W. W. Cone, to whom we are indebted for information—suffice it to say they came in large numbers and the name of Topeka soon went abroad as a prosperous and growing town. The first store in Topeka was kept by J. W. Jones, early in the spring of 1855. The building is yet standing on the west side of Kansas avenue, between Second and Third streets. The first tinshop and hardware store was kept by J. C. Miller. He made the first tinware ever made in the State. At the same time R. L. Mitchell opened the first cabinet shop. The first brick was made by L. N. Thorne, and Guilford Dudley opened the first broker's office in 1859. To F. W. Giles belongs the credit of starting the first bank, which important event occurred in 1864. Enoch Chase kept the first boarding-house in the spring of 1855.

With the gradual increase of population, it became necessary to organize a city government, and the first officers, elected Jan. 28, 1858, were as follows:

Loring Farnsworth, Mayor; A. F. Whitney, A. F. Housel, G. S. Gordon, J. G. Bunker and James Hickey, Councilmen. They were qualified before J. C. Miller, Justice of the Peace, at the first meeting of the Board, held February 11, 1858, and at that meeting A. F. Whitney was elected Chairman of the Board.

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Sturdy and true, with a keen appreciation of the responsibilities resting upon them in respect to the whole population, those early settlers were alive to the educational interests of their young community, and while the honor of teaching the first school belongs to a lady, Miss Sarah Harland, the credit of building a schoolhouse, where educational interests should be focalized, goes to the New England Emigrant Aid Society. The school was built on the southwest corner of Fifth and Harrison streets in 1856. On the 4th of July, 1855, only seven months after the first visit of Messrs. Robinson and Holliday, E. C. K. Garvey & Co. issued the first number of a newspaper, appropriately called *The Kansas Freeman*. But the pulpit preceded the press, and on the 31st of March the first church organization, representing the Methodist denomination, was started by Revs. James S. Griffin and A. Still.

Before passing to a consideration of the present position and advantages of the city, we feel it is due all Topekans to give emphatic denial to the wild statements that have from time to time gone forth with respect to their city before and during the war. An impression very generally prevails that Topeka was in some way headquarters, or at least an important rendezvous, of border ruffianism. Nothing could be more erroneous; we are assured by gentlemen who have resided here from the time the section stakes were driven, that at no time during its whole history has Topeka been a lawless city, or, indeed, the refuge of the lawless in any unusual sense. From 1855, right down to the present time, twelve months in the year for twenty-seven years, Topeka has been a most desirable place for residence. The city was, and is, a New England settlement, with an intelligent, cultivated and law-abiding population.

To-day Topeka is a city of which the whole people of the United States may well be proud. She has the finest church edifices of any city of 25,000 people in the whole Western country; nearly all the denominations are represented, and from personal observation, we know the services are well attended. It must not, however, be supposed that the city is puritanical; the elements that go to make up the general activities of the place are such as have produced a typical Western town with a valuable leaven of conservatism that makes it every year a more desirable place for business, for residence, for educating the young, and for building up characters such as every community needs.

The public schools of Topeka are known far and wide for efficiency and liberal management. There are thirteen school buildings, five brick, three stone and five frame, the whole having fifty-one schoolrooms. The value of this property is over \$200,000. Forty-six teachers are employed in the different departments at an annual cost of \$22,000, and the school population of the city is 5,561. The best classes of citizens have a deep and active interest in the schools, and the yearly graduating exercise is an occasion of general public rejoicing.

Besides the public schools proper, there are located at this point Washburn College, an institution for young men and ladies, having four courses of

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study—business, scientific, classical, preparatory and collegiate. In quality of instruction, in attractive and comfortable facilities for room and board at extremely low rates, and in increasing appliances of library, cabinet and apparatus, the college offers unusual inducements to youth of both sexes desirous of securing a thorough education. Another institution is the College of the Sisters of Bethany; this is a school for young ladies only, and was started in 1859, while Kansas was but a Territory, under a charter giving it the rights of a college, granted by the last Territorial Legislature; its life is thus contemporaneous with that of the State. In 1870, the old special charter was abandoned, and a new college charter adopted, under the general statute. The original name was "The Episcopal Female Seminary of Topeka." In 1872, the name was changed to the "College of the Sisters of Bethany." This name does not refer to any *order* of sisters (for there is none such in it), but to the Scriptural model and example of the two sisters of Bethany, whose names are linked with the institution, and thus ever presented to the minds of the pupils. The college contains a Kindergarten School, a Primary, a Preparatory and a Collegiate Department, embracing all the facilities for the complete education of girls in the substantial as well as ornamental branches. The officers and faculty under the presidency of the Right Rev. Thomas H. Bail, D. D., LL. D., Bishop of the Diocese, contains the names of thoroughly trained and competent teachers in each branch of study, while the arrangement of buildings, the appointments having reference to the comfort, health and general welfare of students, as well as the true care bestowed upon every pupil during the formative period of the mind, are admirable, and serve to distinguish the college among the best known establishments of our country.

The Kansas Theological School is the only Protestant institution of its kind in the State, and is under the control of the Episcopal Church. It was established in 1872.

The planting of educational institutions in the new States and Territories of our Western domain is one of the noblest works in which men or women can engage. Wealth obtained in the active business pursuits of life can in no other direction be used to better advantage, and as an outgrowth of men's industry it is always a pleasure to mention them in our reviews of the commercial status of communities.

The first bridge over the river at Topeka was built in 1858, and, in the summer of that year, it was carried away by a flood. It cost \$1,000, and the people were so discouraged by their loss, that no attempt was made to build another until 1865. There is now spanning the river, from South to North Topeka, a fine iron bridge over 900 feet in length.

The city was first supplied with gas in 1868, a company being organized for that purpose under the laws of the State, with a capital of \$60,000. The company have been successful in their efforts to furnish the city with gas of good illuminating power, and the quality of their production has been uniformly excellent. The demand for gas having steadily increased, they have recently completed, at considerable outlay, the erection of additional build-

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ings and set up a new station meter for measuring purposes, also a new governor. This is the second time they have been called upon to increase the facilities, and the total amount expended on improvements, since their organization in 1868, has been \$100,000. The quantity of gas made is 300,000 feet per day; it is disposed of at \$3 per one thousand feet. The capital of Kansas is, therefore, fully abreast with the times in public works, and the advantages conferred upon her residents by this enterprise for the public good, by which the light, bottled up in the earth for thousands of years, is liberated and made to serve a useful purpose, cannot be lightly estimated.

On the 4th of October, 1881, a contract was closed with Messrs. Russell and Alexander, of Colorado Springs, to establish a system of waterworks for the city of Topeka, and on the 4th of July of the present year, amid great public rejoicing, the machinery was put in motion. The machinery consists of two of Holly's quadruplex compound condensing engines, each set comprising four engines on one frame, with corresponding reciprocating pumps, three boilers, each of sufficient capacity to drive either set of machinery, when used for domestic purposes. The inhabitants of Topeka have reason to rejoice that they have in their midst men of large mental caliber and large enterprise, who have the capacity, the means and the enthusiasm to execute great designs, as in this instance.

A careful analysis of the water has failed to show any insoluble impurities whatever, and as it passes into the mains and is distributed through the city, flowing in abundance from thousands of hydrants, it is perfectly clear. A large well has been sunk on an island in the Kaw River, which is seventy-five feet deep in diameter, and eight feet below the river bottom. The water, filtering for a long distance through the gravelly soil, enters the well free from all foreign matter and as clear as crystal. The daily capacity is 7,000,000 gallons.

The company have already laid down fifteen miles of piping, and in a short time will double the service. They furnish water to the city for fire purposes, and supply the schools and other public city buildings with an abundance *free of cost*. Their schedule of prices is limited by law, and is made as low as the magnitude of the enterprise would warrant.

The city has street cars on the principal thoroughfares; some of the finest hotels in the West and more going up, and look where one may, the evidences of thrift among the business houses and dwellings are numerous, and betoken permanent prosperity.

As already stated, Topeka is the capital of the State. In the early days of Constitutional Conventions and Territorial Legislatures, she had many rivals, whose advocates, with commendable zeal, urged their respective claims, but the sturdy Topekans labored enthusiastically in behalf of their favorite city, believing that the place with such magnificent avenues, that was a "good place to dig potatoes," would be a good place for the State officers, and its pre-eminence was practically established long before Kansas was admitted to the family of States. First, the Topeka Constitutional Convention deter-

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mined in favor of Topeka; following that action the Topeka Legislature acquiesced in the choice; afterward the Constitutional Conventions of Leavenworth and Wyandotte re-affirmed the selection, and finally a large majority of the votes of the people at the polls ratified the preference of the few, and Kansas was admitted to the Union with Topeka as the capital city. It is scarcely necessary to say that the city now has all the State offices, the State Library, State Historical Society, Scientific and Agricultural Societies, Insane Asylum, etc.; aside from these there is a free public library with over 5,000 volumes, to which the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad Company last year donated the grand amount of \$12,500, and the Union Pacific Railroad Company also gave \$12,500. Such donations conditioned upon the Legislature of the State granting privilege of erection of a public library building on the capital square, the \$25,000 to be devoted to the erection of said building, which is now being built. The erection of the State House was begun in 1866; the east and west wings are now completed and occupied, and work is going forward on the main structure. The Corinthian order prevails, and, when finished, the noble building will be an imposing sight and constitute a splendid testimony to the wonderful growth of one of the youngest States in the American Union.

The city has excellent newspapers, social clubs, sporting clubs, musical societies, and one of the best brass band organizations in the West; it also has parks and recreation grounds in abundance, where boating, fishing, skating and out-door games of all kinds may be enjoyed. The population has increased from 9,003 in 1878 to nearly 22,000 in 1882, and manufacturers in search of locations for their enterprises will find Topeka a very desirable halting-place.

No review of the rise and progress of Topeka would be complete without some account of the great railroad that has so materially aided not only the city but the whole State; we refer to the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé road.

This company was incorporated in March, 1863. Construction from Topeka westward was commenced in 1869, and completed to Newton, with branch to Wichita, in July, 1871. The line between Atchison and Topeka was built in the spring of 1872, and between Newton and the west State line, a distance of 296 miles, in the summer and fall of 1872, making a total of 508 miles. In 1875 and 1876, the line between Topeka and Kansas City was added, and the main line extended west to Pueblo, Colo., increasing the mileage to 820. Every year since, the length of the line has been increased, until we find it on February 1, 1881, at Florida Pass, in Southern New Mexico, connecting with the Southern Pacific Railroad to San Francisco. The total mileage, including leased roads, on the 31st of December last was over 1,789. Four branches in Kansas, aggregating 312 miles, have been constructed since 1878. Three lines, under the direction of the Santa Fé Railroad, are now being rapidly constructed; one west from Albuquerque, N. M., to San Francisco; one directly southwest to Guaymas, on the Gulf of California in Old Mexico, and one to the City of Mexico. The completion of these lines will make the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad the longest in the world

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under one management, and the great continental route to China, Japan, Australia and South America. The distance from New York to Australia via Guaymas is 1,400 miles less than via San Francisco, and from 800 to 1,000 miles less to China and Japan.

The country through which the road is built has been properly called the "the granary of the world." The soils of Kansas vary in depth from two to fifteen feet, and are rich in organic matter and vegetable humus; they show great fertility under the most trying methods of cultivation, and it would be difficult to find any portion of the State where fertilizers are required. The general surface of Kansas is undulating, and forms a plain 200 miles wide and 400 miles long, sloping gradually toward the east. The lowest point, on the Missouri River, is 750 feet above sea level; the greatest elevation, the western border, is 3,800 feet above the sea. Statistics prove Kansas a very healthful place of abode. The State is almost exempt from all miasmatic or malarial diseases. Few regions in the United States have so many pleasant days during the year. Situated between the extremes of heat and cold, it escapes alike the severe winters of the North and the hot summers of the South. A climate so equable promotes the best interests of the farmer, enables him to raise the greatest variety of crops, and scarcely interferes with his work the year round.

The resources of Kansas are chiefly in the rich quality of her soil, aided by the fructifying influences of a genial climate. It is pre-eminently an agricultural State, the nature of its soil affording almost perfect natural drainage. Stock-raising is being developed in a wonderful manner, the cattle, hogs and sheep being the foundation of the wealth and prosperity of the State. To the producer of every kind the great railroad of the State has gone with transportation facilities, steadily reducing its rates as opportunity offered, and building up what is of the very highest importance to the farmer—markets where he can profitably dispose of his crops and stock.

From Atchinson and Kansas City, on the Missouri River, the Atchinson, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad passes right through the garden region of the State, a marvelously fine country, abounding in succulent and nutritious grasses, some of which—as the Buffalo and Gramma species—afford pasturage every month in the year. Notwithstanding that the company's road extends far beyond the State line, and is being rapidly pushed to completion in the direction of San Francisco and San Diego, Guaymas, on the Gulf of California, and also to the Capital of the Mexican Republic, the land grant of the Atchinson, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad is confined to the State of Kansas, and consisted originally of 3,000,000 acres, of which 1,000,000 acres have been sold to actual settlers. The lands remaining for sale are equal in every respect to those already sold, and are located in the counties of Chase, Morris, Marion, Butler, McPherson, Harvey, Sedgwick, Reno, Rice, Barton, Stafford, Rush, Pawnee, Edwards, Hodgeman, Ford, Gray, Sequoyah, Kearney and Hamilton. The average elevation of these counties is about two thousand feet above sea level, and the climate throughout the entire range is most healthful. The most valuable features of this land-grant are the varieties in its soil and topography,

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and the differences in the climate of various localities. No matter what the specialty of the farmer may be, he will somewhere along the Cottonwood and Arkansas Valleys find soil and climate suited to his particular interests. During the season of 1881, fifteen counties lying in the Arkansas Valley produced 45 per cent of the entire winter wheat crop in the State. The crop of oats was 25 per cent of the whole amount raised in Kansas; of sorghum, 35 per cent; of broom corn, 50 per cent; and other leading crops in like ratio. Within the past two years several large sorgho-sugar and sirup factories have been erected at points in the Arkansas Valley, and are proving very successful. The surface of the valley of the Cottonwood is rolling, with limestone bluffs along the edges of the valleys; the streams, many in number, are fringed with timber, and the climate and soil are both favorable for extensive farming at small expense. Like the Arkansas Valley, it is also a splendid region for stock-raising, and this is fast becoming one of the leading interests in both valleys. The lands range in price from \$1.25 to \$10 per acre—the average being about \$5 to \$6 per acre. Compared with the figures at which land is held in other Western States—Illinois for instance—it will be found that an investment of \$10, on the line of the A., T. & St. F. R. R., will produce as much as \$50 invested in any part of Illinois. In addition to this, taxes are proportionately less, and a careful investigation will show very pronounced advantages in favor of Kansas. Land exploring tickets may be obtained of the company's agents at all the principle railroad ticket offices of the United States, at greatly reduced prices, and good for forty days.

Throughout the magnificent domain, the various kinds of crops that have been produced with more or less success, according to the amount of intelligence brought to bear in their cultivation, are the following: Corn, winter wheat, oats, rye, barley, flax, buckwheat, tobacco, Irish and sweet potatoes, sorghum, castor beans, broom corn, rice corn, millet and Hungarian, alfalfa clover, timothy, peanuts, silkworms, apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries, grapes and all kinds of small fruits and vegetables.

No railroad corporation in the country has done more to bring to the notice of the people of the United States and Europe the natural resources, environment and possibilities of the region traversed by its iron track, than that popularly called the "Santa Fé road." From its inception, through all the years of its wonderful growth and extension, the interests of the State have been inseparably interwoven with those of the company; the management has been distinguished among all the roads of America for its capable and unrelenting enterprise; the goal of yesterday has been the starting-point of the morrow, and an aggressive, bold and energetic policy has placed the "Santa Fé road" in the front rank of true progressionists.

As illustrative of the practical methods adopted by the road to advance the highest interests of the State, mention may be made of the memorable display made solely by and at the expense of this corporation at the International Cotton Exposition, held at Atlanta, Ga., in 1881. It may here be asserted, in view of the universal admission of the fact by the leading journals

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of the United States at that time, that no single feature of that exposition attracted more general attention than the wonderful display of agricultural and mineral products made by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad. The display covered a space sixty feet square in the center of the railroad building. In the midst of this space, a circular structure, twelve feet in diameter and rising to a height of thirty-one feet, was built entirely of grain—golden sheaves of wheat, corn and other staple products of the State of Kansas. Four porticos projected from the base of a conical pyramid of cereals, facing toward the four entrances of the building, while the pillars of these porticos were covered with wild grasses and embellished with ornamental designs made from cane. At the extreme four corners of the space allotted to the road stood four immense obelisks, twenty-one feet in height, covered with ruddy apples, massive wheat heads, corn in the ear and chopped straw. Entering into the various designs and combinations were wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, rice corn, sorghum, flaxseed, buckwheat, beans, timothy, clover and millet, flour, cotton, silk cocoons and other products, including a superb variety of fruit and rich displays of the mineral wealth of the State—the whole forming a triumph of realistic art never equaled by any State in the Union. All the products used in this exposition were gathered by the agents of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé road, and every dollar of the expense attaching to the commendable enterprise was paid by the company. Furthermore, it must be borne in mind that every article in this exhibit of the agricultural wealth of Kansas was produced in that region of the State immediately connected with the "Santa Fé road."

For a review of the present industrial and commercial status of the city of Topeka, we refer the reader to the following pages.



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Mercantile and Other Important Interests.

TUCHMAN BROS., FIFTH STREET, BETWEEN KANSAS AVENUE AND
QUINCY STREET.

Since the year 1880, when they began their operations, these brothers have established a business of considerable magnitude as manufacturers and wholesale dealers in cigars, pipes and smokers' articles, fully proving the truth of the old adage that when a man takes care of his business, his business will take care of him. No man has such care unless he exercises prudence, tact, energy and enterprise. These qualifications have found complete exemplification in the career of these gentlemen, and to-day they hold a strong position in the trade with which they are identified. The firm employ fifteen practical cigar makers, and their wholesale trade, principally within the State of Kansas, requires two traveling salesmen. They carry a complete and exhaustive stock of the finest brands of cigars and leaf tobacco, besides imported goods in great variety and the productions of the best Eastern manufacturers. The firm obtain leaf tobacco from Chicago, St. Louis and New York, and handle the choicest brands known to the trade. Their special brands, manufactured on their own premises, are the "Henry Clay," "Our Own," "Capitol Favorite," "Pleasant Hours," "Kansas Chieftain," and others. All lovers of the fragrant weed pronounce in favor of these excellent goods. Tuchman Bros.' business is flourishing beyond their expectations, a result which is very gratifying to them and their many friends.

EXCLUSIVE CARPET AND FURNISHING HOUSE OF GEORGE W. WOOD,
137 AND 139 KANSAS AVENUE.

Of the numerous busy trade marts within the city of Topeka, there are none more distinctively representative in character than the popular carpet and furnishing house of Mr. George W. Wood. It is conducted upon a broad and liberal basis, and constitutes the point of greatest interest to the public in the special line of trade to which it is devoted.

The "carpet store," as it is popularly known, has gained distinction, not by reason of a long existence, but rather through the untiring enterprise of the proprietor and a determination on his part to deserve the patronage he sought; notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Wood made his advent in Topeka only four years ago, it must not be supposed that period covers his business experience; on the contrary, few men in his branch of trade in the West have been longer associated with it than himself, and the number of those who have actively



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and successfully followed it for a quarter of a century—as he has done—are exceptionally few.

This gentleman is a wholesale and retail dealer in carpets, mattings, rugs, curtains, wall papers and decorations, fine upholstered furniture, and a complete line of house furnishings; his entire stock constitutes as fine a display as will be found in—not Topeka, nor the State of Kansas—but anywhere in the West. The stock is rich, varied and abundant, reflecting the highest credit upon Mr. Wood's business activity and affording the people of the State a first-class emporium where the choicest goods in his line may be obtained. He makes a specialty of furnishing churches, halls, lodges, hotels, etc., and has been successful in securing contracts for furnishing many State institutions where there has been the sharpest competition.

In the upholstering department, Mr. Wood employs twelve workmen, and his facilities are utilized to their fullest capacity; all furniture sold by him is upholstered on the premises. He makes a specialty of manufacturing and repairing all kinds of mattresses, from the finest to the common excelsior or husk—guaranteeing all work—and carries a large supply of goods for furniture, carriage and other work.

The jobbing trade of the house, which is rapidly increasing, now extends to all parts of Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico. The sales for 1881 reached the handsome sum of \$60,000, and with the experience of the past and a growing demand for fine goods, consequent on accretions of wealth and increased population, the splendid results of four years will be doubled in the near future, and Mr. Wood's influence be correspondingly greater than in 1882, when, in simple justice, he must be pronounced one of the most successful merchants in the State of Kansas.

T. J. KELLAM & Co., 183 KANSAS AVENUE AND POST OFFICE BLOCK,
NORTH TOPEKA.

The flight of time is known only by its loss; to the great German—Schiller—belongs the credit of saying that the test of real merit lay in forgetfulness of the clock. By this was meant, that one should not be too much concerned as to the passage of time, but *use it* while he had opportunity. This is what Mr. T. J. Kellam has done. Instead of listlessly perambulating in front of a first-class hotel with a nickel watch in his hand, imagining the time when he should be a millionaire, he came West early in life, and with an object in view went energetically to work in pursuit of its attainment.

In the month of August, 1877, Mr. Kellam bought out the business of W. O. King, and to a small and incomplete stock added a large and elegant assortment of books and stationery. Being a young man of keen business education and the most correct habits, he soon won the respect and confidence of a number of influential citizens, and gained the recognition of the general public. His store, which is the handsomest of its kind in the city, perhaps in the State, is 25x90 feet in area, and arranged in exceedingly good taste

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throughout. Besides the large display of standard works and general stationery, he deals largely in paper bags, straw, manila and rag paper, pictures and picture frames, and carries the most complete stock in each line to be found in the city. He does an extensive jobbing trade with country merchants in wrapping papers and paper bags, and makes this one of the special features of his business. Legal blanks of every kind are kept in stock, also letter presses and other office goods. The sales for 1881 were very satisfactory, and will be much larger this year. Mr. Kellam has several times had the contracts for furnishing stationery for the State departments, also for the offices of the A., T. & S. F. R. R., and has given the utmost satisfaction in all these important transactions. He is one of the earnest and capable young business men of a young and growing State, and the elements of character and ability are so happily combined in him that his future is fully assured.

A. M. FULLER, 80 KANSAS AVENUE.

If any doubt existed as to the importance of the agricultural pursuits of the West, and especially of the State of Kansas, it might be effectually disposed of by reference to the comparatively short business career of Mr. A. M. Fuller. This gentleman has been established in the agricultural implement business here since 1879. Coming from Illinois, and in a modest way, he entered upon a field of labor that has yielded results far beyond his most sanguine anticipations, and promises large expansion with the lapse of every year. Mr. Fuller has adhered closely to his resolution to afford farmers the opportunity of purchasing the machinery devised for every department of their farm labor, and he has liberally expended of his capital to keep in stock these appliances. He occupies a store having a ground site of 25x130 feet, two stories high, with basement. His stock includes Moline Plow Company's plows and cultivators, the Walter A. Wood binder, harvester, mower and reaper, Barlow's rotary corn planter, the Triumph grain drill, Tiger & Coates' sulky rakes, Fish Bros.' farm and spring wagons, a full line of buggies, wagons, carriages, extra fine leather-top buggies, sulkies, etc., from the best-known manufacturers in the country. He has also a stock of T. T. Haydock's buggies, which sell at very reasonable figures; these latter are strong and serviceable, and well adapted for farmers' use. Mr. Fuller's trade is entirely retail, and amounts to the handsome sum of \$43,000 per year. Any one at all acquainted with the farming implement business will know from these results that the founder of this supply depot has been a most active man since he commenced operations three years ago, and much credit is due Mr. Fuller for having by his own unaided operations built up a business of such magnitude.

E. H. DAVIS, 167 KANSAS AVENUE.

In giving an account of the commercial interests of a city, the recorder generally does so by comparison, but occasionally there is found an institution so

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far ahead of its particular trade, that comparison is impossible, or at least, only serves to distinguish it from those which must of necessity occupy relative positions merely. Such is the character of the well-known clothing house of Mr. E. H. Davis. With a large and handsome store, having a ground site of 25x100 feet, and containing a display of goods scarcely equaled in quality and magnitude by any similar establishment west of the Missouri; having a long and honorable record, and at the present time, managed in a thoroughly capable and business-like manner; the house is a noble illustration of the power of geniality, candor and square dealing to attract patronage, and unlock the secret doors to success.

This house was originally established in 1869, by J. G. Fink, who conducted the business until 1877, when the present sole proprietor, Mr. E. H. Davis, was admitted to partnership, under the firm title of J. G. Fink & Co. In October last, Mr. Fink died, and Mr. Davis assumed entire control of the business. Thus far, in the career of his individual proprietorship, he has met with marked success, and the present prosperity of his business gives promise of much greater attainment in the future. Mr. Davis' stock is systematically arranged and admirably displayed; it would be impossible to name separately, the entire category of goods; to do so would be to mention a thousand articles of wearing apparel, gents' furnishing goods, head-gear, traveling outfits, etc., *ad infinitum*. It is sufficient to say that he handles goods as fine in quality, as reasonable in price, and as varied in style as any clothing house in the West; that he deals directly with manufacturers, thus having and sharing with his customers all jobbers' profits, and that the manufacturers of whom he buys are the best known and most reliable in the country, as will be seen by reference to the following list: hats and caps, John B. Stetson and E. Morris, of Philadelphia; gents' furnishing goods, Robert K. Davis, of New York; clothing, Rogers, Peet & Co., of New York, and Miner, Beal & Hackett, of Boston; shirts, Morris & Hutchinson, of New York; he is also agent for Wilson Brothers, Fletcher & Co., and the celebrated "Star" Shirts. Mr. Davis is sole agent for the goods of the widely-known house of Romatke Brothers, of Milwaukee, consisting of trunks, valises, traveling bags, shawls, straws and wrappers, etc. There will be found in this class of goods no more complete stock in the city. The annual sales for 1881 amounted to \$55,000. Mr. Davis has secured and retains a good class of customers, and the prospects for 1882 are satisfactory.

CROSBY BROS., 177 KANSAS AVENUE.

It is unquestionably true that no man succeeds in life unless he brings to the conduct of his vocation that quality of enthusiasm that overrides difficulties and causes all minor interests to yield to the one great purpose of his life. In every department of human affairs this holds good, particularly in relation to commercial undertakings, in which, with all the ardor and courage of the Alpine climber, the brothers whose firm name heads this sketch engaged on the 1st of August, 1880. They are wholesale and retail dealers in foreign

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and domestic dry goods, and bought out, for spot cash, the business formerly owned by Bartholomew & Co.

The members of the firm are Mr. W. T. Crosby, who was for ten years connected with the house of Yale & Bolwling, of New Orleans, and Mr. E. H. Crosby, Jr., formerly with the firm of Crom, Hargadine & Co., of St. Louis, for a period of eight years. During these years of honorable service, they were both highly esteemed by the firms named, and severed their relations with those houses with expressions of genuine regret, happily commingled with the best wishes of their old employers for future success. The intimacy thus formed is of substantial advantage to the Crosby Bros., and, indirectly, to their customers in Topeka and the surrounding country. Through the two houses mentioned, the firm obtain goods on terms quite as favorable as those secured by the most extensive jobbers; they *discount all their bills, sell for cash*, and extend to all customers such inducements as are rarely offered, and no thoughtful person can afford to ignore.

The firm have retained most of the old customers of their predecessors, and largely increased their trade by the acquisition of new ones. Every department of the store, which is large, airy, and well-lighted, is arranged in accordance with the perfect system that characterizes all first-class houses; they employ a force of polite and competent clerks, and the rapid growth of their business will soon warrant not only an increase of employes, but a more commodious store. The special feature of their business is the hosiery and fancy goods department, and at special sales they have frequently sold 200 dozen pairs of hose in one week.

It is proper to state, in conclusion, that this firm have lost none of the enthusiastic devotion to their affairs with which they began, and that every indication points to them as gentlemen fitted, by genial disposition and business acumen, to fill a large place in the future commercial life of the Kansas capital.

R. BEAN & Co., CORNER KANSAS AVENUE AND SECOND STREET.

This firm are proprietors of a business that has a promise of future development and importance, probably as bright and encouraging as that of any other within the corporate limits of the capital city of Kansas. It is known as the People's Packing House Market, and was established by Mr. Rufus Bean in 1879. It would be difficult to find a more striking illustration of the fine results achieved through individual effort than in the case of this gentleman; and although the position of his business to-day is such as to attract admiration, the interest one feels in the enterprise is greatly enhanced by the fact that the success of the past and the large and constant accretions to the volume of his trade, warrant the statement that the packing business of the house is destined to assume proportions of great magnitude.

The firm do a regular wholesale and retail business, and as a proof of the substantial character of the industry, the fact may be cited that during the season of 1881, they packed not less than 1,000 hogs per month, besides a

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large number of cattle, while the monetary value of their transactions reaches the handsome sum of \$20,000 per month. Mr. Bean has built up an extensive jobbing trade in pork, beef, smoked meats and lard. A very superior article of pressed corned beef forms one of the staple preparations of the house, and this is rapidly growing in popular favor. The premises now occupied are creditable to the proprietors, alike in construction, arrangement and the remarkable cleanliness and order that pervades every department. They have, however, been found inadequate to the demands of a rapidly growing enterprise, and Mr. Bean has purchased land on the river front whereon it is proposed to erect a larger and more commodious establishment for packing purposes. Then the transactions of the firm will be materially enlarged in their scope, and in the near future it will be found that through the indefatigable exertions of the courteous and capable founder of the business, Topeka will have in her midst one of the most substantial packing houses in the West.

THE WINDSOR HOTEL, CORNER KANSAS AVENUE AND SEVENTH STREET.

It is often surprising to notice how, with the rapid development of our country, with the transformation of a majestic though desolate domain into a still more imposing panorama, where the hands of strong men are developing its resources, and building cities that astonish the world by their growth, we say it is surprising to notice how uniformly successful men have been in supplying all the most urgent requirements of any section. Thus, from all parts of Europe and the Eastern States, have come some of the highest types of manhood, with brains and capital, to till the soil and spread over the face of this great State, the evidences of a refined and industrious civilization. These people have selected their capital city; one of the first and most essential institutions of that city was a first-class hotel. We do not use the term "first-class," as it is commonly and erroneously applied to numberless establishments; neither do we, in this instance, mean a first-class house *for* the West, or *for* Topeka; we use the phrase rather in its broadest and most comprehensive sense, and, in speaking of the Windsor as a first-class house, wish to emphasize the fact that it is absolutely among the best in the country, and would be so rated in the largest Eastern cities or the most prominent places of Europe. Those of our readers who have never traveled in the West, and are yet unpersuaded that civilization has taken up her abode in our Western cities, may smile incredibly at such a statement, but it is our custom to speak of all institutions as we find them, and, if comparison is necessary, to give "honor to whom honor is due," and that meed of praise to which every man is deservedly entitled. We, therefore, say emphatically that the proprietors of the Windsor Hotel are entitled to the highest credit for having so completely and unexceptionally "filled the bill," in respect to the requirement of the capital city of Kansas, for an elegantly appointed, capably managed and thoroughly home-like hotel. The proprietors are T. J. Hankla and his brother, J. R. Hankla. They were formerly residents of Emporia, in this State, and

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came here six years ago, at about which time they opened the Fifth Avenue Hotel, a popular and well-equipped resort, which they managed successfully until June 18, when they disposed of the same for \$5,000 cash, not wishing to run two hotels in same city.

The Windsor was opened on the 1st of February last, an event which was signalized in a liberal and sumptuous manner, and in which the people, not only of Topeka but of nearly all sections of the State, felt a lively interest. Everything throughout the imposing structure is, therefore, absolutely new; all the furniture, upon which \$25,000 were spent, is modern in design and elegant in finish and *tout ensemble*. There are seventy-five large and airy bedrooms, suites of rooms, parlors, drawing-room, a capacious dining-room with a capacity for seating seventy-five guests without any of the inconveniences arising from overcrowding; the office is large and exceedingly attractive in its appointments, while ten fine sample rooms, maintained at an annual expense of \$500, afford commercial men unusual accommodations for the transaction of business. Electric bells, the Davis fire escapes and water hydrants are provided for every sleeping apartment in the house, and the entire establishment is heated by steam. The office has all the adjuncts indispensable to the convenience of guests, including U. S. Mail Box, telegraph and telephone connections and elevator. The decorations of the interior are well conceived and admirably executed; the most elaborate gas chandeliers and fixtures are provided in all parts of the house, except the office, which is lighted by electricity. Throughout the halls, parlors, bedrooms, etc., one's lightest tread sinks the foot in the richest of velvet carpets, a profusion of beautiful mirrors give to the spacious apartments the elegance of a crystal palace. It is safe to assert that at no capital city in the Union have the members of the Legislature a more inviting and sumptuous resting-place during the busy sessions of their respective bodies, and certainly no more indefatigable hosts than the Hankla Bros., have proven themselves to be in their relations to the law-makers of the State of Kansas. The proprietors ignore the customary adjunct of a bar. Their employes in every department are polite and efficient in their attention to guests, and the Messrs. Hankla are ever vigilant and capable in their solicitude for the comfort and convenience of all who pass under their hospitable roof. It is necessary to state in conclusion that the Windsor is an exclusively transient hotel, and the rates are \$2 and \$2.50 per day.

FERNALD BROTHERS, 157 AND 159, QUINCY STREET.

The important industry followed by these gentlemen was first established in 1871, and as now in 1881. The advantage of years in developing and building up any business is well known, and has served to give them the benefit, so valuable as a means of introduction, and has partially established their reputation.

These gentlemen bring to the prosecution of their calling, a practical knowledge of their business, not only in a mechanical way, but also in way of experience in business usages. The stock of material carried by them is

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inclusive of everything wanted in the line of Italian and native marble, granite, sand and limestone. Supply of the first is purchased from importers in New York; granite from Quincy, Mass., whence comes the best in the country, and sand and limestone from adjacent points.

Sufficient pains are taken to always insure supply, and to have such supply seasonable and of best quality. Their line of work is exclusively confined to cemetery purposes.

As evidence of their skill and workmanship, we name the cottage monument of Dr. McClintock, and also that of John Elliott, Esq., both in the Topeka Cemetery.

These gentlemen have had long residence in Topeka—fifteen years or more.

In further proof of the standing and appreciation of these parties, we state that the contribution of the State Historical Society to the Washington monument at Washington, D. C., bearing the motto, *Ad Astra per Aspera*, was prepared by them. It is an oblong block of native limestone, elaborately engraved with suitable devices, and has the word Kansas thereon in raised letters, and the motto heretofore given.

BROWN & HOLLER, 68 KANSAS AVENUE.

The gentlemen composing this firm are experienced and substantial men of business, and will prove a valuable acquisition to the capable practitioners in their line of trade, which is of vital importance to every community. We refer to the practice of pharmacy. Mr. S. C. Brown and Mr. John Holler began business, as per caption, in this city about one year ago, and have had that experience in their business that entitles them to be regarded as practical pharmacists. Their store is 25x90 feet in area; it is handsomely arranged and fitted up with the newest style of show cases and other fixtures, and in every way presents an exhibition of good taste and pride in the important branch of human activities to which they have devoted their lives. The firm carry a large stock of all drugs and chemicals essential to the requirements of the medical profession and the public; also a full supply of proprietary medicines, paints, oils, glass, brushes, toilet articles, perfumery and druggists' supplies. They have had experience in buying, and procure their stock from the well-known and reliable houses of Meyer Bros., Kansas City, and Richardson & Co., St. Louis.

Messrs. Brown & Holler make the compounding of prescriptions a specialty, and by reason of their thorough knowledge of drugs, are certainly competent in this most vital part of their vocation. The store is supplied with an elegantly designed soda fountain, and the firm keep choice brands of cigars. Mr. S. C. Brown graduated at University of Michigan Medical Department in 1860, and afterward joined the army, where he served three years with distinction, and held the position of Surgeon in the Eighteenth Veteran Volunteers of Indiana.

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BATES & CLEMENTS, 171 KANSAS AVENUE.

A straight line has, through all periods of time, had an attraction for most men. Even when one could neither see nor describe it in words, it has proved a forcible illustration of a principle. Thus when a man bereft of speech and sight was asked, "What is rectitude?" he with the tip of his finger described a straight line, and in reply to the interrogatory, "What is the reverse of rectitude?" he made a zigzag motion. No description could be simpler. It is the straight and zigzag lines that distinguish men in business as in all the walks of life, and among the merchants of Topeka the firm whose name heads this sketch have every claim to proper recognition as having avoided the sinuous paths that, continually diverging and widening, never lead to the goal of success, the apex of those two converging straight lines, rectitude and industry.

The firm of Bates & Clements are dealers in dry goods, notions and gents' furnishing goods. The business, as originally founded in 1868 by George P. Bates & Co., remained in the hands of those gentlemen until January, 1881, when Mr. D. A. Clements became associated with Mr. N. L. Bates, the founder of the business retiring. Mr. Clements assumed active management of the house. Bates & Clements' store occupies a ground site 25x100 feet, is handsome in its decorations, well lighted and plentifully stocked with goods. Their trade is strictly retail, and the sales last year amounted to \$10,000 more than for 1880. This is decided evidence of their increasing popularity, and having always enjoyed the confidence of the public and their brother merchants of this city, there is every reason to believe the firm have a prosperous career before them.

M. E. FOWLER, 117 KANSAS AVENUE.

Close observation warrants the statement, and we give it as a deliberate opinion, that the tendency of all commercial and industrial life in America is to weed out the incompetent and place all branches of business in the hands of the thoroughly qualified. This is especially gratifying, as it effects so important and responsible a calling as the handling of drugs and chemicals. In the treatment of human ills, the druggist occupies a place second only to that of the skilled physician; he should, therefore, be a man of high order, with a thorough knowledge of the "science of poisons," and a ready sympathy for, and power to grapple with, the numberless exacting circumstances that must necessarily arise in a business of such vital moment. In the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, the residents of Topeka have a high-minded and capable representative of this interest, having only experienced chemists and druggists in his employ.

The business was originally established in 1880 by Clark & Fowler; six months thereafter Mr. Fowler bought out his partner's interest, and has since conducted the business with marked success. Mr. Fowler has also established a fine business in sign writing, employing none but the most skillful workmen and turning out the most elaborately executed signs in the city; he also has



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the services of a competent fresco painter, and does all descriptions of interior decorations in the best manner known to modern artists. Mr. Fowler's stock of wall-paper is extensive, and in every department of his business—drugs, paints, oils and varnishes, notions, etc.—there is apparent a never-ceasing desire to supply his patrons with the best that money can buy or the markets afford.

His sales for 1881 far exceeded his expectations, and his position in the commercial circles of the capital city is steadily growing and becoming more important with the lapse of every month.

FOX'S MUSIC STORE, 121 KANSAS AVENUE.

Of the numerous institutions that contribute to the æsthetic culture of the citizens, few are entitled to more favorable mention than the music store of E. B. Fox, successor to the firm of Slie & Fox; the house was established in 1879. The proprietor carries a large stock of all descriptions of musical instruments, and has sample pianos and organs of all the best manufactures in the world. All the modern improvements are combined in them, and every purchaser of any of the instruments bearing the name of Webber, Chase or Estey may rely upon the evidence of well-established facts, that there are no better. Regarding the Estey organ we have to say that after sustaining its reputation for over thirty years it is acknowledged to be unequalled. It is made at the largest organ factory in the world, and no other instrument of this class has an equal popularity.

Mr. Fox has a large and pleasant store; he keeps in stock all kinds of sheet and bound music, and the whole stock representing not less than \$8,000, constitutes the largest assortment of instruments and musical merchandise in the city of Topeka. Mr. Fox keeps two agents on the road, and his sales last year were one hundred and twenty pianos and organs, besides a large number of smaller instruments and music; he is a gentleman of ripe experience and affable disposition, always ready to impart any information desired.

H. I. COOK & Co., 29 AND 31 KANSAS AVENUE.

The gentlemen comprising the firm are H. I. Cook, Christian States and W. M. Anderson; they are general hardware merchants, and established their business in Topeka in 1879. They handle both light and heavy goods, and the value of their stock is between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Their stock of stoves makes a very fine display, and embraces all the best makes; also vapor and oil stoves of the latest designs are handled. The vapor and oil stoves being specially adapted to the present season, the firm have on hand a large and varied stock, and by the use of these admirable inventions in the household, much money is saved and a great deal of annoyance and labor prevented. The firm have an immense stock of tinware; the Triumph refrigerator occupies also a prominent place, it being A1, both in design and make. They also have water coolers, lawn mowers, pocket and table cutlery of foreign and

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domestic manufacture, plated ware, ice pitchers, and all other articles belonging to the trade. The stock fills a large store, 25x100 feet, to repletion; the yearly sales of the firm are from \$65,000 to \$70,000, and they are rated among the most enterprising and successful merchants of the capital city of Kansas.

FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL, CORNER OF FIFTH AVENUE AND QUINCY STREET.

Among the many commanding structures in the New West, devoted to hotel purposes, the attractive four-story brick, known as the Fifth Avenue Hotel, occupies a well-merited position. The building is large and handsome, having cut stone trimmings and mansard roof, presents an appearance of comfortable elegance. The office is large, and supplied with all the facilities of a first-class establishment; two spacious sample rooms are at the service of commercial men. When necessity requires it, the large reading room is cheerfully placed at the disposal of travelers for business purposes, and all these rooms being on the main floor, are easily accessible. The capacious bed-rooms are neatly and completely furnished, and have all the accessories needful for the use of the guests. The dining rooms, parlors and other apartments are finely appointed, and look where one may in any part of the house, the visitor will find everything admirably ordered and scrupulously clean.

This house was until recently conducted by the Messrs. Hankla Bros., of the Windsor, the new proprietors and managers being Mr. E. Harris and Mr. C. McArthur, both from Columbus, Ohio, where they were engaged in the stock and commission line, and are business men of good repute and large experience. Mr. J. W. Stennet, formerly of Newark, Ohio, the popular and efficient acting manager for years, will continue his relations with the house; he formerly held the same position at the Gordon, and has made a host of stanch friends among the traveling public. Mr. Thomas Gordon, a former resident of Kalamazoo, Mich., is a very worthy employe of the house, filling the position of night clerk, while one of the most important offices in a first-class hotel, that of steward, has a most efficient representative in the person of Col. J. T. Wood.

It is the intention of Messrs. Harris & McArthur to maintain undiminished the excellent reputation the Fifth Avenue Hotel enjoys, and increase its accommodations as opportunity offers or the comfort and convenience of their guests shall demand.

EDSON & BECK, 115 SIXTH AVENUE, EAST.

The industry followed by these gentlemen is the most extensive of its kind in the capital city. They are dealers in flour, feed, hay, grain, etc., and their stock is always replete with everything in their line. They also manufacture chop feed, being proprietors of the Sixth Avenue Feed Mills, which are in constant use to supply the demand of their trade. The magnitude of their business requires storage room in addition to their spacious premises given

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above, where they operate a steam hay press, on Eighth street, near Santa Fé Railroad. The combination of so many features or industries has been developed latterly, and the benefits thereof have had a marked effect in placing their business in its present commanding position.

The enterprise was first established in 1870, in a modest way. The present management have had control since 1879. Messrs. Edson & Beck bring to their calling a practical business education which gives them the confidence and esteem of the public.

JAMES I. GILBERT, 141 KANSAS AVENUE.

On the 9th of last February this gentleman bought out the wholesale and retail grocery business of Mr. A. J. Ewert, and has succeeded during the short period of his proprietorship in materially increasing the trade, and has also gained a reputation for business capacity and enterprise of which many older merchants might reasonably be proud.

Mr. Gilbert's store is 25x135 feet in area, and if any should doubt his thorough enterprise and determination to supply customers with every needed article in his line of trade, they have but to visit his capacious store and see for themselves pile upon pile of goods of every description and in endless variety. He employs six clerks behind the counter whose services are in constant demand by a steady stream of customers, who have proved that quality and reasonable charges are the prime factors in Mr. Gilbert's business. In addition to an exhaustive stock of staple and fancy groceries, the category of goods includes crockery and glassware, canned fruits and other commodities essential to a first-class business. Mr. Gilbert obstinately refuses to handle inferior grades of goods and solicits the best class of custom.

CAPITAL HOTEL, 83 AND 85, SIXTH AVENUE.

Not to the chambers wherein the law-makers of the Commonwealth are wont to meet, but to the popular caravansary kept by Messrs. Hayes Bros., known as the Capital House, we now invite the reader's attention. Without any inclination whatever to the perpetration of a pun, we wish to say emphatically that this is a *capital* hotel. This hotel came into the possession of Mr. T. J. Hayes in September, 1880. A few months thereafter he was joined by his brother, Mr. J. D. Hayes. Both gentlemen came here from Fairfield County, Ohio, and have proved their special fitness for the hotel business by greatly improving the character of this popular resort since they became proprietors. A short time previous to their occupancy, the premises had been materially improved, and the Hayes Bros. have taken advantage of every opportunity to increase the facilities of the hotel in every way and add to its conveniences for the entertainment of guests. It may be truly said, that, with the advent of these gentlemen in the city of Topeka, the Capital Hotel entered upon a new era, and in every respect the house has been uniformly maintained on a higher grade than it ever occupied before.

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The hotel is a well-constructed, three-story brick building; the interior substantially furnished, while the management is distinguished by a quiet, polite, and thorough business demeanor, characteristic of all successful hotel men. The rates, \$2 per day for transient guests, include every accommodation required by the traveling public.

BROOKS & TAYLOR, 125 KANSAS AVENUE.

In the comparatively short period of three years, the gentlemen comprising this firm—Mr. J. M. Brooks and Mr. James Taylor—have secured for themselves a strong position in the best commercial circles of Topeka. They are wholesale and retail dry goods merchants, and their success is due to the exercise of those traits of business character that command esteem, and elevate men from the drudgery of limited opportunities into the realm of the largest possibilities.

The store, which is splendidly lighted, and fitted up in admirable taste, is filled to repletion with a handsome stock of goods, rich in quality and varied in style, and represents an investment of \$20,000 to \$25,000. The firm keep their establishment well supplied with all the most desirable fabrics known to the trade, and also a full line of notions in endless variety. They enjoy unusual facilities for buying job lots, and share with their customers the advantages accruing from these transactions. The firm have established a good jobbing trade, which is steadily increasing. Doing a strictly cash business, they have built up an annual trade of from \$30,000 to \$35,000, and the sales for 1881 were much larger than those of the preceding year.

Brooks & Taylor enjoy the distinction wherever they are known of being capable, energetic, and honorable business men.

J. W. FARNSWORTH, 147 KANSAS AVENUE.

In business as in gunnery, there must be a mark, focal point, or "bull's-eye." No man can succeed in hitting it without a steady, clear aim, given the point or object to which one's energies are directed. The wise man of business strives to attain his object, not by a circuitous course, but by pursuing the converging lines that lead to the apex of success. This has been the path rigidly adhered to by the gentleman whose name heads this sketch.

Mr. John W. Farnsworth came to Topeka as long ago as 1856, long before railroads or the many proofs of a high state of civilization now existing were thought of; in that year, he left Kansas City with a load of groceries, drawn by an ox team, and was one of the earliest traders at this point. At the expiration of a year, he added a general line of goods of all kinds to his trade, and afterward sold out to engage in the hardware line, in company with Mr. J. Smith; this partnership lasted for eight years, when it was dissolved, and Mr. Farnsworth, by that time recognized as a substantial business man, erected the building he now occupies, and stocked it with foreign and domestic crockery and glassware, and in this business has been engaged up to the present time.

The leading industries of Topeka, Kansas

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LEADING INDUSTRIES

He is an importer, and wholesale and retail dealer in the finest wares known to the trade, also silver-plate and britannia ware, lamps, chandeliers, gas fixtures, looking-glasses, table cutlery, etc., *ad infinitum*. Mr. Farnsworth has the most comprehensive views of business, and has special pride in keeping every department of his stock replenished with all the rarest and most elegant goods; not infrequently he has customers from the East and the large cities of the West, who, during a visit to this city, find in his establishment choice articles and decorated sets that have been, owing no doubt to lack of enterprise on the part of their home merchants, unprocurable at their places of residence. He makes it a special point—of which he never loses sight—to have on hand a sufficient stock, both in plain goods and those of the most elaborate design and finish, to supply any demand that is likely to arise, and in every respect, the establishment is an honor to the city that gave it birth and the gentleman who has so efficiently nurtured its growth.

FRY & FRY, 62 KANSAS AVENUE.

These gentlemen are practical butchers, and established their business in 1881. It can be said of them that, during the single year of their operations, they have probably become as widely known to this community as any individual or firm engaged in any branch of business. They have been very careful to provide the best quality of meats, and their strict adherence to this rule early drew to them the attention and patronage of some of the best private families, and many of the leading boarding-houses and hotels in the city. Their store covers a ground site of 25x90 feet, and is admirably fitted up for the business; two large refrigerators, capable of accommodating four beef carcasses, afford ample means of preserving meat during the summer months. The firm also deal largely in choice butter, eggs, vegetables, fish, oysters (in their season) and the best sugar-cured hams. In addition, they do an active trade in poultry, and we may mention as an evidence of their prominence as poultry dealers that Mr. J. A. Fry has sold and dressed for the table 318 chickens in one day. This gentleman raises large quantities of poultry of all kinds, and in this particular is ably assisted by an estimable wife.

It is a pleasure for us to record in this review a business success achieved in so short a time:

T. & J. HARNDEN, 98 KANSAS AVENUE.

By the exercise of industry and tact these brothers have succeeded in acquiring a fine reputation as practical boot and shoe makers. They came West from Old England, where they had gained a thorough knowledge of St. Crispin's art. It was not, however, their intention to follow this trade in Kansas, as they had resolved to put their hands to the plow, and seek the good things of the world through the medium of the farmer's life. They had proceeded in this direction so far as to partly purchase a farm with the hard-earned